MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I mean '*extension in area.*'

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The area has increased from three to four square miles. There has thus been an increase of one square mile.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the increase in the number of houses?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The number of houses has increased from 9,000 to 10,000, or by 1,000.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know, still further, whether such necessary arrangements and formalities for the conduct of elections could not have been made before the termination of the statutory period of the Municipality?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The recommendation for the extension of the town came in just before the election time and the wards had to be reconstituted. All this could not be done sooner.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that such contigencies could not have been foreseen long before?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is for the Municipal Council to consider. Government received the recommendation from the Municipal Council and action was taken as soon as the recommendation was received.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do the Government think that such extension of the period of the Municipality operates detrimentally to the general interest of the Municipality?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Even as it is, the Municipality is legally constituted until the new Council is formed. It can effectively work.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): By virtue of the controlling powers vested in the Government, are the Government justified in not looking after the interests of the Municipalities?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It has not come to the notice of Government that the Municipality has suffered by its continuance as at present constituted.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are not the Government aware of the series of petitions that have been sent to them?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not just now in a position to answer that question.

Testing of the Competency of Motor Drivers and the Reliability of Motor Cars.

16. MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who the present authority appointed is, to test the competency or otherwise of drivers and the reliability of motor vehicles, for purposes of issuing driving licenses and permits; and

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(*b*) whether such authority has any technical qualification necessary for the purpose ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) A person not previously licensed to drive a motor vehicle, on applying for such a license, is tested in regard to his competency to control a motor vehicle, either by a District Superintendent of Police or an Assistant Superintendent of Police. An examiner of a motor bus may be any person approved by the Commissioner of Police. (*Vide* Form G of the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1096, revised up to the 1st Minam, 1099).

(*b*) No technical qualifications are required for testing ability to drive with safety.

The examiners of motor buses are all qualified Engineers.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : The answer to (*b*) is :—

"No technical qualifications are required for testing ability to drive with safety."

Am I to understand that no special technical qualification is necessary to test the competency of drivers ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Neither the Regulation nor the Rules prescribe any technical qualification for the drivers.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Apart from the provisions of the Rules, do not the Government think that it is most desirable to test the competency of the drivers ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government have not considered the question. Hitherto, Government have not been of that opinion.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Do the Government propose to consider the question ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government will consider that point.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : It is stated in the answer that the examiners of motor buses are all "*qualified*" Engineers. Are they qualified in this particular branch, *viz.*, Motor Engineering ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It is the Commissioner of Police that gives these licenses. The Engineers who examine these buses are all qualified men.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I want to know whether, in such testing, the authorities concerned really possess the necessary technical qualifications.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : They are people with technical qualifications.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Are the Government satisfied with their qualifications ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : They have hitherto been satisfied.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there any special officer appointed for this purpose?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not one officer. The Commissioner of Police is in entire charge of this arrangement. Persons possessing the necessary qualifications are selected from time to time. The buses require half-yearly inspections.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the plurality of officers will obviate this difficulty?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no difficulty whatever.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I understand that there are a number of officers for testing the competency of the drivers. Are these officers duly qualified for the purpose?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Commissioner of Police has considered them qualified enough for the purpose.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware of the number of accidents that take place as a result of the incompetency of the drivers?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government aware of the numerous cases prosecuted in the First Class Magistrates' Courts?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The information is not before Government now.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do the Government think that only technically qualified men should be employed to test the competency of the drivers?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No technically qualified men are required for the purpose.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What are the qualifications of the men now employed for the purpose?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The qualifications of each man have to be ascertained.

Appointment of Traffic Inspector.

17. MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any recommendation has been made to them for appointing a Traffic Inspector; and

(*b*) whether there was any application from any Tamilian for the above post, and, if so, will they be pleased to consider the case of Tamilians who are least represented in the public service?

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